

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8875

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0528

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RQ, ETRD, TD, US

SUBJECT: ARRANGEMENTS FOR PUERTO RICO-TRINIDAD MEETING

REF: LONDON 02690

1. DURING MY FIRST MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER DR. ERIC WILLIAMS FEB 27 I INFORMED HIM THAT GOVERNOR HERNANDEZ ACCEPTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S INVITATION TO SEND A DELEGATION FOR INFORMAL TALKS IN TRINIDAD DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF MARCH. IN NOTED THE PR SECRETARY OF STATE ALBORS WOULD DEFINITELY BE AMONG THOSE WHO WOULD COME. 2. I ALSO INFORMED DR. WILLIAMS OF THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL THAT THE MEETINGS BE HELD WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, MARCH 10-11, AND INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE PUERTO RICAN OFFICIALS TO EXTEND THE DISCUSSIONS BEYOND TWO DAYS AT THIS TIME.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER FOUND THIS ACCEPTABLE, BUT URGED THAT THE PUERTO RICAN DELEGATION ARRIVE IN TRINIDAD ON THE EVENING OF THE NINTH SO THAT TWO FULL DAYS MARCH 10 AND 11 WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR DISCUSSIONS. THIS WOULD APPEAR THE MOST FELICITOUS APPROACH SINCE FLIGHTS TO TRINIDAD FROM SAN JUAN LEAVE THERE IN LATE AFTERNOON. PLEASE CONVEY WILLIAMS'S REQUEST TO SAN JUAN AS APPROPRIATE.

4. WILLIAMS UNDERSTANDS THAT A DIRECT REPLY TO HIS
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LETTER WILL BE SENT BY GOVERNOR HERNANDEZ COLON, BUT APPRE-

CIATED HAVING EARLY CONFIRMATION THAT THE PROPOSED
MEETING HAS BEEN ACCEPTED FOR THE TIME FRAME SUGGESTED.
I DID NOT MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT STATEDEPARTMENT
PARTICIPATION SINCE IT IS STILL UNCERTAIN WHO WILL
BE DESIGNATED AND WILLIAMS HAD EARLIER SIGNIFIED HIS
COMPLETE ACQUIESCENCE TO SUCH PARTICIPATION BY US IN
THE PUERTO RICAN DELEGATION IF WE WISHED.
FAY

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